

R M P N e w s

Andrews Management Unit
Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area

July 2002

Your Comments are Requested on the Andrews Management Unit/ Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement Planning Criteria, Proposed Alternatives, Resource Goals, and Objectives

This Resource Management Plan (RMP) newsletter was developed to keep interested members of the public informed about the progress of the planning effort and upcoming involvement opportunities. Displayed in this newsletter are a scoping summary and the preliminary planning criteria, alternatives, goals and objectives developed for analysis in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Planning criteria are the constraints or ground rules guiding and directing the development of the RMP. They determine how the planning team and the public approach the development of alternatives and ultimately the selection of the Preferred Alternative. Criteria ensure plans are tailored to the identified issues, and unnecessary data collection and analyses are avoided. Alternatives were assembled as a result of BLM internal discussion and public input. A Preferred Alternative will be selected and identified in the Draft EIS. However, the final Record of Decision may reflect elements

of more than one alternative. Also shown are the goals and objectives for each resource to be analyzed. Goals are broad statements of desired outcomes. Goals are generally not quantified and may not have established time frames for achievement. Objectives are characterized as descriptions of desired outcomes for a resource. Objectives can usually be quantified and measured and, where possible, have established time frames for achievement. Not yet developed are the management actions; these are the specific activities proposed to be undertaken to achieve the resource goals and objectives. The management actions will generally be different for different alternatives, whereas the goals and objectives remain the same for each alternative.

You are invited to comment on the planning criteria, alternatives, goals and objectives. Comments will be accepted until August 23, 2002. This newsletter is also available on the Burns District Web site at www.or.blm.gov/Burns/Planning.

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Public Input Plays a Significant Role in Developing the Resource Management Plan

Phase 1: Public Scoping

An Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS) regarding the Andrews/Steens Mountain planning area was developed just prior to public scoping meetings held this winter. The AMS served to detail current management direction and current condition of resources. The development of the AMS will allow public involvement in the entire planning process, beginning with phase one, public scoping.

The scoping phase involved gathering input from the public on how they would like to see the planning area managed. BLM gathered this input through a variety of methods. Open house scoping meetings were held in late February and early March in Burns, Frenchglen, Bend, and Portland, Oregon, to answer questions and provide information. News articles were published in papers throughout Oregon and information was posted to the Web site.

Approximately 113 people attended the scoping meetings, and 469 different scoping letters/comments and 1,844 copies of various form letters were received by the Burns District Office. It was also determined by BLM that the comments submitted as part of the development of the Draft Southeast Oregon RMP would be considered in developing the Andrews/Steens RMP.

Each comment was summarized and, if pertinent, will be addressed in the RMP/EIS. The comments were categorized into 23 groups (Alternative Choices, Cultural, Development Issues, Fire, Fish/Wildlife/Wild Horses, Geology/Mining/Energy, Lakes/Springs, Lands, Livestock Grazing, Noxious Weeds, Off-highway Vehicles/Snowmobiles, Planning and Process Issues, Recreation, Roads/Access, Special Management Areas/ Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Socioeconomics, Special Recreation, Vegetative Ecosystems, Water Quality/Water Quantity, Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Soils, and Other).

Following the public scoping period, the writing of a Draft RMP/EIS will begin, initiating phase two of the planning process. Throughout the draft development, BLM will hold meetings with Cooperating Agencies; will regularly update the Web site; and will mail newsletters to the public. Once the Draft RMP/EIS has been written, phase 3 will begin with the publishing of a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft RMP/EIS in the *Federal Register*. The NOA opens the 90-day public comment period soliciting comments on the Draft RMP/EIS.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, OR TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS,
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General Planning Criteria

The following general planning criteria will guide the preparation of the RMP/EIS and future land-use decisions:

- The RMP/EIS will be completed in compliance with FLPMA and all other applicable laws.
 - The planning team will work cooperatively with the state, Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC), Resource Advisory Council (RAC), Burns Paiute and other tribal governments, county and municipal governments, other federal agencies, and all other interested groups, agencies, and individuals. Public participation will be encouraged throughout the process.
 - The RMP/EIS will establish the guidance upon which the BLM will rely in managing the Planning Area.
 - The planning process will include an EIS that complies with NEPA standards.
 - The RMP/EIS will emphasize the protection and enhancement of the Planning Area's biodiversity while at the same time providing the public with opportunities for compatible commodity-based and recreation activities.
 - The RMP/EIS will recognize valid existing rights within the Planning Area and review how such rights are verified. The Plan will outline the process used by the BLM to address applications or notices filed on existing claims or other land use authorizations after completion of the Plan.
 - The lifestyles and concerns of area residents, including the activities of grazing, fishing, and hunting, will be recognized in the Plan.
 - Any land within the Planning Area's administrative boundary and subsequently acquired by the BLM will be managed consistent with the Plan, subject to any constraints associated with the acquisition.
 - The RMP/EIS will recognize the state's responsibility to manage wildlife. The BLM would consult with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) before establishing no-hunting zones or periods for the purposes of protecting public safety, administration, or public use and enjoyment. Methods of access and the manner in which wildlife management activities are to be conducted will be governed by the BLM, consistent with language in the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act.
 - The RMP/EIS will address transportation and access, and will identify where better access is warranted, where it should remain as is, and where decreased access is appropriate to protect Planning Area resources and manage visitation.
 - The management of grazing is regulated by laws and regulations. The RMP/EIS will incorporate the Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines. It will define a strategy for ensuring that proper grazing practices are followed within the Planning Area.
 - The planning process will involve Burns Paiute and other tribal governments and will provide possible strategies to protect recognized traditional uses, if such uses are identified.
 - Consistent with federal law and the Act, decisions in the RMP/EIS will strive to be compatible with existing plans and policies of adjacent local, state, federal, and tribal agencies.
 - In addition to the general criteria listed above, specific criteria apply to the Steens Mountain CMPA.
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- The RMP/EIS will meet the following specific requirements of the Act:
- Protect the Steens Mountain CMPA's natural resources and outstanding recreation opportunities, while encouraging cooperative management;
 - Describe appropriate uses and management of the Steens Mountain CMPA consistent with the Act;
 - Incorporate, as appropriate, decisions contained in any current or future management or activity plan for the Steens Mountain CMPA; use information developed in previous studies of the land within or adjacent to the Steens Mountain CMPA;
 - Coordinate with state, county, and private landowners and the Burns Paiute Tribe; and
 - Determine measurable and achievable management objectives consistent with the Act to ensure the ecological integrity of the area.

Resource Specific Criteria

In addition to the general planning criteria identified on page three, other specific planning criteria have been developed and apply to the RMP/EIS.



(1) Energy and Minerals

Except where specifically withdrawn, public land will be available for energy and mineral exploration and development, subject to applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

(2) Air Quality

Under the Clean Air Act, air quality of the Planning Area is designated as Class II. All land will be managed under Class II standards unless reclassified by the State of Oregon.

(3) Water Quality

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1977 as amended (Clean Water Act) requires the BLM to be consistent with state nonpoint source management program plans and relevant water quality standards. Section 313 requires compliance with state water quality standards. The RMP/EIS will incorporate Best Management Practices (BMPs) or other conservation measures for specific programs and activities. Water quality will be maintained or improved in accordance with state and federal standards. In addition, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) will be developed pursuant to the Clean Water Act that address water quality limited stream segments.

(4) Soil

Soil will be managed to protect long-term productivity. BMPs will be incorporated into other programs to minimize soil erosion and compaction resulting from management actions.

(5) Cultural and Paleontological Resources

Cultural and paleontological resources will be managed to maintain or enhance scientific, interpretive, and educational values. Cultural resources will be managed to protect American Indian interests where possible.

(6) Vegetation

Vegetation will be managed to provide for biological diversity at the landscape level, to protect and restore native perennial and desirable nonnative perennial species, and to provide for consumptive uses and non-consumptive values, including visual quality and watershed condition.

a. Riparian Areas, Floodplains, and Wetlands

Riparian areas, floodplains, and wetlands will be managed to restore, protect or improve their natural functions relating to water storage, ground water recharge, water quality, and fish and wildlife values.

b. Woodlands

All juniper and quaking aspen woodlands will be managed to protect long-term biological productivity and diversity and watershed values.

c. Noxious Weed Control

The BLM will work with county, state, and federal agencies to monitor the locations and spread of noxious weeds. Noxious weed control will be conducted in accordance with the integrated weed management guidelines and design features identified in the Burns District Noxious Weed Management Program. The BLM will assess land prior to acquisition to determine if noxious weeds are present.

(7) Special Status Species

The BLM is mandated by law to assist in the conservation and recovery of species listed as Threatened or Endangered or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Federal actions that may affect these species require consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). BLM policy requires that authorized actions do not contribute to the need to list species as threatened or endangered.

(8) Wild Horses

Forage will be provided to support wild horse populations at levels established in accordance with the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act. Adjustments in range allocation will be based on monitoring to ensure a thriving natural ecological balance within Herd Management Areas (HMAs).

(9) Grazing Management

Grazing of public land will be authorized under the principles of multiple-use and sustained yield. Livestock will be managed to maintain or improve public land resources and rangeland productivity and to stabilize the livestock industry dependent on the public range over the long term. Forage will be allocated by allotment for livestock grazing on suitable rangeland based on multiple-use and sustained yield objectives. Existing management systems, including those outlined in Allotment Management Plans (AMPs), will continue until evaluations indicate that change is needed to meet objectives.

The process for determining livestock forage allocations through allotment evaluations will proceed in accordance with BLM regulations and policy.

(10) Visual Resources

The BLM will manage public land to protect the quality of scenic (visual) values in accordance with established guidelines. All public land will be designated as Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class I, II, III or IV.

(11) Land Tenure Adjustments

BLM administered land will be retained in public ownership un-

less disposal of a particular parcel will serve the public interest. Land may be identified for disposal by sale, exchange, state indemnity selection or other authorized methods. Land will be identified for acquisition based on public benefits, management considerations, and public access needs. Specific actions meeting land tenure adjustment criteria as established in the RMP/EIS will occur with public participation and will be made in consultation with local, county, state, and tribal governments.

(12) *Rights-of-Way (ROW) and Land Use Authorizations*

Public land will generally be available for land use authorizations including transportation and utility ROWs with preference given to existing corridors. Exceptions will include areas specifically prohibited by law or regulation (e.g., wilderness) and specific areas identified to protect resource values.

(13) *Fire Management*

Wildland fire will be integrated into land and resource management planning to help achieve resource management objectives. The use of surface-disturbing equipment to suppress wildland fires will be restricted in Steens Mountain Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), and areas containing significant cultural or paleontological values, except when needed to protect human life or property. Public land affected by fire will be managed in accordance with multiple-use objectives.

(14) *Recreation*

All public land will be within Special Recreation Management Areas or Extensive Recreation Management Areas. Some areas may be subject to special measures to protect resources or reduce conflicts among uses. Where there is a demonstrated need, the BLM may develop and maintain recreation facilities including campgrounds, picnic areas, interpretive sites, boat access, and trails.

(15) *Off Highway Vehicles (OHV)*

All public land will be designated as open, limited or closed for OHV use. Public safety, resource protection, user access needs, and conflict resolution will be considered in assigning these designations.

(16) *Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)*

ACECs will be designated where special management attention is required to protect historical, cultural, or scenic values; natural resources or processes; or human life and safety. Management requirements for ACECs will be identified in the RMP/EIS.

(17) *Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas*

Wilderness will be managed according to the Wilderness Act and wilderness regulations. WSAs designated under authority of FLPMA, Sections 603 and 202, will be managed in accordance with the BLM Interim Management Policy for lands under wilderness review. This planning effort will not reopen the initial wilderness review mandated by Section 603 of FLPMA, and it will not change existing decisions, signed by the Secretary of the Interior, to recommend areas as suitable for wilderness designation. New areas could be inventoried for wilderness characteristics during the planning process. Any new wilderness inventories and studies will be conducted under the authority of Sections 201 and 202 of FLPMA.

(18) *Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR)*

As required by law, streams will be evaluated for addition to the National Wild and Scenic River System. The evaluation will be conducted according to BLM Manual Section 8351 - Wild and Scenic Rivers - Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation and Management. Designated WSRs will be managed in accordance with laws and existing plans.

Public Comment Disclaimer

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the address listed on page 2 during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Your input is important to us! Please submit comments on the planning criteria, alternatives, goals, and objectives IN WRITING to the Burns District BLM Office no later than August 23, 2002.

Description of Alternatives

Alternative A

(No action. Continues current management):

This alternative would continue management under the existing Andrews Management Framework Plan and amendments, the Andrews Grazing Management Final EIS and Rangeland Program Summary, plus for the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area, the dictates of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act, and the various existing activity plans. Resource values and sensitive habitats would receive management emphasis at present levels. Emphasis would be on maintaining existing conditions. There would be no comprehensive plan for restoration of degraded systems. Restoration would take place on a case-by-case basis and would utilize either active or passive methods.

Alternative B

(Excludes commodity production and limits other uses to maximize natural processes):

This alternative would exclude all permitted, discretionary uses of the public land including, but not limited to, livestock grazing, mineral sale or leasing, realty actions, recreation uses requiring permits and new commercial rights-of-way. The BLM would petition the Department of the Interior to withdraw the entire planning area from locatable mineral entry. This alternative would allow no commodity production and would include only those management actions necessary to maintain or improve natural values and protect life and property. Any management actions would utilize primarily passive methods. Some components of the alternative may not be possible to implement in the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area because of legal requirements and constraints of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act, but the alternative is included for purposes of impact analysis and comparison.

Alternative C

(Emphasizes protection of natural values):

This alternative emphasizes the restoration of natural systems that are degraded and the maintenance of those that are functioning at a high level of condition. Commodity production would be constrained to protect natural values and systems that are in good or better ecological condition or to accelerate improvement in those that are in less than good condition. Constraints to protect sensitive resources would be the most restrictive. In some cases and in some areas, commodity production could be excluded to protect sensitive resources, while still providing for overall sustainable commodity production as provided for in the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act. Both active and passive restoration methods would be utilized to achieve management goals.

Alternative D

(Balances cultural, economic, ecological and social health in a manner that encourages cooperative management practices):

This alternative emphasizes natural resource use, protection, and environmental health and places high importance on balancing cultural, economic, ecological and social values. This would be done within the limits of the natural system's ability to provide commodities on a sustainable basis and within the constraints of laws and regulations, including the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act as it pertains to the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area. This alternative encourages cooperative management of the planning area by collaborative arrangements with landowners, permit holders, other land managers, and interested parties. The alternative recognizes that the long-term cultural, economic, social and ecological integrity of the planning area are intertwined and cannot be maintained without involving landowners, permit holders, local and tribal governments, and interested parties, in relationships involving cooperation, consultation and coordination. The alternative would balance the values that through the generations created the area's cultural and physical environment. Constraints to protect sensitive resources would be implemented but would be less restrictive than under Alternative B in order to ensure that sustainable commodity uses and production would be maintained.

Alternative E

(Emphasizes commodity production and public uses):

This alternative would emphasize commodity production and production of goods and services such as mining, grazing, commercial recreation, harvesting commercial woodlands products, and tourism. Under this alternative, constraints on commodity production for protection of sensitive resources would be the least restrictive possible within legal limits, while still meeting the requirements of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act for management of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area. Potential impacts to sensitive resources would be mitigated on a case-by-case basis. Emphasis would be on maintaining resource conditions where required. Restoration actions that would enhance commodity production would utilize primarily active methods. Other restoration actions would utilize passive methods.

Goals and Objectives

MINERALS

Goal 1 - Provide opportunities for the exploration and development of locatable minerals in a culturally- and environmentally-sound manner.

Objective 1. Make available to mineral entry the maximum amount of land with federal mineral estate.

Goal 2 - Provide opportunities for the leasing and development of oil and gas, geothermal, and solid leasable mineral resources in a culturally- and environmentally-sound manner.

Objective 1. Utilize the least restrictive leasing categories (no leasing, no surface occupancy, open with seasonal and/or special stipulations).

Goal 3 - Provide opportunities for the production of saleable minerals by local, state and federal agencies and the public in a culturally- and environmentally-sound manner.

Objective 1. Permit development of mineral materials sources in areas where development does not conflict with other resource values.

AIR QUALITY

Goal - Maintain, restore, or protect air resources to support public health, visibility and regional haze standards and goals.

Objective 1. Manage prescribed burning projects to avoid degradation of the airshed.

Objective 2. Manage mining operations to avoid degradation of the airshed.

WATER

Goal - Maintain, restore or improve water quality and quantity to sustain the designated beneficial uses on public lands.

Objective 1. Comply with state and federal requirements to protect public waters and outstanding resource values.

Objective 2. Protect all designated beneficial uses by preventing or limiting non-point source pollution; maintain or improve existing surface and ground water quality through implementation of best management practices.

Objective 3. Manage impaired waters on public lands listed under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act to restore beneficial uses and improve water quality so listing is no longer warranted.

Objective 4. Ensure water sources are managed for designated beneficial uses.

SOILS

Goal - Manage mineral soil and biological soil crusts on public lands to maintain, restore, or improve soil erosion class, watershed and areas of fragile soils.

Objective 1. Protect and manage mineral soil to stop active erosion on critical sites, preserve soil characteristics on non-critical sites, and ensure appropriate infiltration and permeability rates.

Objective 2. Increase the understanding of Northern Great Basin biological soil crusts via the collection of biological soil crust specific data within the planning area.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Goal 1 - Preserve, protect and manage paleontological resources in accordance with existing laws and regulations to ensure they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations.

Objective 1. Develop a predictive model for locating the most significant paleontological localities and their intersection with the most pervasive impacts.

Objective 2. Research significant paleontological localities in cooperation with universities and other federal agencies.

Objective 3. Protect significant paleontological localities.

Goal 2- Increase public knowledge of, appreciation for, and sensitivity to paleontological resources.

Objective 1. Create paleontology interpretive opportunities for public education.

VEGETATION

Goal - Manage vegetation to achieve and maintain healthy watersheds.

RIPARIAN AND WETLANDS

Goal - Maintain, restore, or improve riparian vegetation, habitat diversity, and geomorphic stability to achieve healthy, productive riparian areas and wetlands and associated structure, function, process, and products that provide public land values such as forage, water, cover, structure and security necessary to meet the life history requirements of wildlife; public recreation and aesthetics; water quality and quantity; and livestock forage and water.

Objective 1. Achieve and/or maintain a rating of Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) for perennial and intermittent flowing and standing waterbodies relative to site capabilities, site potential, and BLM management jurisdictions.

Objective 2. Achieve and/or maintain riparian vegetation communities relative to ecological status, site potential and capability, and/or site

specific management objectives (determined through activity-plans and/or Water Quality Restoration Plans).

Objective 3. Manage riparian areas to maintain or restore soil moisture content and retention of ground water to augment base flow conditions during the warmer summer months.

WOODLANDS

Goal 1 - Maintain and improve integrity of old growth juniper woodlands.

Objective 1. - Maintain or improve characteristics of old growth western juniper woodlands.

Goal 2 - Maintain, restore, and improve the integrity of mountain mahogany and quaking aspen stands/groves.

Objective 1. - Reduce the influence of western juniper and other associated woody plant species in lower elevation quaking aspen and mountain mahogany stands.

Goal 3 - Manage woodland habitats so the forage, water, cover, structure, and security necessary to meet life history requirements of wildlife are available on public lands.

Objective 1. Reduce juniper woodlands to help restore riparian and sagebrush habitats.

WILDLAND JUNIPER MANAGEMENT AREA

Goal - Manage the WJMA for the purposes of experimentation, education, interpretation, and demonstration of active and passive management intended to restore the historic fire regime and native vegetation communities on Steens Mountain.

Objective 1. Establish a series of demonstration areas within the 3,267-acre Wildland Juniper Management Area for technology transfer and public education.

Objective 2. Evaluate different treatments and management strategies for plant communities dominated by western juniper.

RANGELANDS

Goal 1 - Maintain, restore or improve the integrity of desirable vegetative communities including perennial, native and desirable introduced plant species.

Objective 1. Maintain or restore natural vegetation communities through sound landscape management.

Objective 2. Maintain or restore vegetative composition of desirable nonnative seedings to meet resource objectives.

Objective 3. Rehabilitate plant communities that do not meet the desired range of conditions.

Objective 4. Increase species and structural diversity at the plant community and landscape levels in the big sagebrush communities. Provide multiple successional stages within the landscape.

Goal 2 - Manage rangeland habitats so that the forage, water, cover, structure and security necessary to meet life history requirements of wildlife are available on public lands.

Objective 1. Manage big sagebrush, quaking aspen, and western juniper communities to meet habitat requirements for wildlife.

Objective 2. Manage big sagebrush communities to meet the life history requirements of sagebrush-dependent wildlife.

NOXIOUS WEEDS

Goal - Control the introduction and proliferation of noxious weeds and reduce the extent and density of established populations to acceptable levels.

Objective 1. Treat noxious weeds and inventory for new infestations using the most effective means available, as outlined in the Burns District's Integrated Weed Management Program EA.

Objective 2. Educate the public on how to utilize public lands without inadvertently spreading noxious weeds.

Objective 3. Maintain partnerships with local groups and government agencies to combine efforts in the control and prevention of noxious weed infestations.

FISH AND WILDLIFE

Goal - Provide diverse, structured, resilient, and connected habitat on a landscape level to support viable and sustainable populations of wildlife, fish, and other aquatic organisms.

Objective 1. Maintain, restore, or improve habitat.

Objective 2. Improve habitat quality on mule deer winter ranges currently in unsatisfactory condition.

Objective 3. Manage forage production to support wildlife population levels identified by the ODFW.

SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

Goal - Maintain, restore, or improve special status plant populations and animal habitats; manage public lands to conserve or contribute to the recovery of threatened or endangered species; and prevent future ESA listings.

Objective 1. Manage special status plant species to ensure management actions do not contribute to their decline or listing as T&E.

Objective 2. Conserve threatened and endangered animal species and the ecosystems on which they depend. Ensure management actions do not contribute to the need to list any Special Status Species under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act.

Objective 3. Continue implementation of existing BLM management directives, and continue and/or implement site specific management to further the conservation of threatened, endangered or special status species.

Objective 4. Manage big sagebrush communities to meet the life history requirements of sagebrush-dependent, special status species.

Objective 5. Evaluate habitat requirements and conditions for the reintroduction of extirpated species into historic habitat in the

planning area.

Objective 6. Maintain, restore or improve bighorn sheep habitat and allow for maintenance or further expansion of bighorn sheep populations as defined by ODFW in “Oregon’s Bighorn Sheep Management Plan.”

Objective 7. Assign priority for water quality restoration plans to improve habitat and water quality where the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout is the most sensitive beneficial use.

REDBAND TROUT RESERVE

Goal - Manage the Redband Trout Reserve to conserve, protect, and enhance the Donner und Blitzen River population of redband trout, and provide opportunities for scientific research, environmental education, and fish and wildlife oriented recreation.

Objective 1. Define the Redband Trout Reserve boundary.

Objective 2. Maintain the genetic integrity of redband trout in the Redband Trout Reserve.

Objective 3. Increase the distribution and abundance of fluvial redband trout in the Redband Trout Reserve.

Objective 4. Develop an angler education and etiquette program for the Redband Trout Reserve.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Goal 1 - Preserve, protect and manage cultural resources in accordance with existing laws, regulations, and Executive Orders, in consultation with the Burns Paiute Tribe and other Native American Tribes to ensure cultural resources are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations.

Objective 1. Locate significant sites where they are in conflict with other resource uses.

Objective 2. Research significant cultural sites in cooperation with universities, the Burns Paiute Tribe, other tribes, and other heritage partnerships.

Objective 3. Use protective measures to safeguard significant cultural sites.

Objective 4. Pursue land acquisitions to bring significant sites into Federal management.

Objective 5. Stabilize, restore or reconstruct significant historic structures to provide public safety and recreational and interpretive opportunities.

Goal 2- Increase public knowledge of, appreciation for, and sensitivity to cultural resources.

Objective 1. Create cultural resources interpretive opportunities and sites for public education in coordination with Burns Paiute Tribe and other tribes.

NATIVE AMERICAN TRADITIONAL PRACTICES AND RELIGIOUS CONCERNS

Goal - Protect traditional religious sites, land forms, burial sites, resources and other areas of interest in consultation with Burns Paiute Tribe and other tribes.

Objective 1. Monitor and protect Burns Paiute Tribal and other tribal interest areas.

Objective 2. Integrate maintenance and protection of native subsistence species into vegetation management activities.

WILD HORSES AND BURROS

Goal 1 - Manage and maintain healthy wild horse herds in established Herd Management Areas (HMA) at appropriate management levels to ensure a thriving natural ecological balance between wild horse populations, wildlife, livestock, vegetation resources, and other resource values.

Objective 1. Designate Herd Management Areas

Objective 2. Designate/Retain Herd Areas (HA) in inactive status.

Objective 3. Designate Appropriate Management Levels (AML) for each HMA and allocate year long forage for wild horses.

Objective 4. Manage wild horse numbers within established HMAs to ensure a thriving natural ecological balance.

Objective 5. Provide adequate year-round water sources to sustain wild horse herds.

Objective 6. Maintain herd viability and genetic diversity.

Goal 2 - Maintain special and unique characteristics.

Objective 1. Maintain physical and genetic distinguishing herd characteristics.

SOCIAL/ECONOMIC

Goal -Manage public lands to provide social and economic benefits to local residents, businesses, visitors, and future generations.

Objective 1. Work cooperatively with private and community groups and local, Burns Paiute Tribal, and other tribal governments to provide for customary uses consistent with other resource objectives and to sustain or improve local economies. (AMU/CMPA)

Objective 2. Maintain and promote the cultural, economic, ecological, and social health of the Steens Mountain area. (CMPA)

GRAZING MANAGEMENT

Goal - Manage for a sustainable level of livestock grazing while maintaining healthy public land resources.

Objective 1. Provide for a sustained level of livestock grazing in the Andrews Management Unit (AMU) while meeting resource objectives

and requirements for Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Management.

Objective 2. Promote viable and sustainable livestock grazing operations in the CMPA while meeting resource objectives and requirements for Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Management.

Objective 3. Implement administrative solutions and rangeland projects to provide proper management for livestock grazing while meeting requirements for standards and guidelines.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Goal - Manage public land actions and activities in a manner consistent with visual resource management (VRM) class objectives.

Objective 1. Protect, maintain, improve or restore visual resource values by managing all public lands in accordance with the VRM system.

LANDS AND REALTY

Goal - Provide lands, interests in land, and authorizations for public and private uses while maintaining and improving resource values and public land administration.

Objective 1. Retain public land with high public resource values. Consolidate public land inholdings and acquire land or interests in land with high public resource values to ensure effective administration and improve resource management. Make available for disposal public land meeting the disposal criteria contained in Section 203(a) of FLPMA.

Objective 2. Meet public needs for land use authorizations such as rights-of-way (ROW's), leases, and permits.

Objective 3. Acquire legal public or administrative access to public land.

Objective 4. Utilize withdrawal actions with the least restrictive measures necessary to accomplish the required purposes.

Objective 5. Eliminate unauthorized occupancy or use of public lands.

TRANSPORTATION / ROADS

Goal 1- Provide a safe road system on public lands while meeting administrative and public access needs consistent with other resource objectives.

Objective 1. Maintain a public road system that provides safe access to public, private, and state lands using best management practices as identified in Appendix ____.

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

Goal 1 - Provide an appropriate management response to all wildland fires emphasizing firefighter and public safety.

Objective 1. Implement appropriate fire suppression actions in the Wildland Urban Interface or areas identified to possess significant values.

Objective 2. Implement the appropriate management actions upon discovery of wildland fires in areas outside of the designated Wildland Urban Interface or area that possess significant values.

Goal 2 - Restore and maintain the integrity of ecosystems consistent with appropriate fire regimes and land uses.

Objective 1. Implement management actions across the planning area that maintain or return plant communities to the historic fire regime where changes to the biophysical environment have not been significant enough to limit the return. Find an appropriate fire regime based on current conditions in areas where the biophysical environment has been significantly changed and return to the historic fire regime is not possible.

Objective 2. Assess burned areas for appropriate biological and physical rehabilitation activities.

Goal 3 - Identify areas that qualify for suitable fuels reduction treatments to protect urban interface, resource developments, and other resource values.

Objective 1. Develop a management strategy that specifically identifies the wildland urban interface, resource values and developments throughout the planning area.

RECREATION

Goal - Provide developed and undeveloped recreation opportunities, while protecting resources, to manage the increasing demand for resource-dependent recreation activities.

Objective 1. Establish and manage intensive-use areas, where the presence of high quality natural resources and the current or potential demand warrants intensive management practices to protect areas for their scientific, educational, and/or recreational values while accommodating anticipated increases in use for recreation activities in specific areas.

Objective 2. Continue management of existing developed recreation sites to protect natural resources and to meet user needs.

Objective 3. Outside of the intensive-use areas, manage the remainder of the Planning Unit for dispersed recreation.

Objective 4. Manage visitor use in the CMPA, intensive-use, and dispersed recreation areas to protect natural resources and to provide a variety of recreation opportunities.

Objective 5. Provide information and educational opportunities to public land visitors.

Objective 6. Manage commercial, competitive, educational, and organized group recreation activities.

Objective 7. Manage Back Country Byways (BCB) to protect the recognized values.

OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES (OHV)

Goal - Manage OHV use to protect resource values, promote public safety, provide OHV use opportunities where appropriate and allowable, and minimize conflicts among various users.

Objective 1. Manage OHV use in conformance with OHV designations.

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Goal - Retain existing and designate new areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC's) where relevance and importance criteria are met and special management is required to protect the identified values.

Objective 1. Retain and manage existing ACECs if they meet relevance and importance criteria and require special management or protection.

Objective 2. Designate and manage potential ACECs that meet relevance and importance criteria and need special management or protection.

WILDERNESS

Goal 1 - Maintain or improve the wilderness values and the special features of the Steens Mountain Wilderness under a principle of nondegradation and in a manner that will leave these values unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, while providing opportunities for public use, enjoyment and understanding.

Objective 1. Manage the wilderness to allow for areas of differing levels of resource use.

Goal 2 - Manage the wilderness in such a manner so that the landscape is essentially unaffected by human manipulation and influences, while allowing natural processes to dominate.

Objective 1. Accomplish necessary projects and activities occurring in wilderness with the minimum tool or requirement needed to achieve a desired result. The chosen tool, equipment, or structure would be the one that least degrades wilderness values temporarily or permanently.

Goal 3 - Manage nonconforming uses of the Steens Mountain Wilderness, allowed under the Wilderness Act and the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act, to have the minimum impact on wilderness character.

Objective 1. Manage livestock grazing in wilderness under the stipulations of the Congressional Grazing Guidelines (HR 101-405 Appendix A)

Objective 2. Provide for the level and type of commercial services necessary to enable the public to use, access, enjoy and understand the recreational and other values of wilderness, emphasizing opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation, inspiration, and solitude.

Objective 3. Allow for a level of reasonable access for the use and enjoyment of private inholdings while protecting the wilderness values.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

Goal 1 - Protect and improve the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) of the designated Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSRs).

Objective 1. Manage the Donner und Blitzen River WSRs in conformance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Wilderness Act, and the Donner und Blitzen WSR Management Plan.

Objective 2. Manage Mud Creek and Ankle Creek WSRs in conformance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Wilderness Act, and the Donner und Blitzen WSR Management Plan which will be amended through the RMP process.

Objective 3. Manage Kiger Creek and Wildhorse Creek WSRs in conformance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Wilderness Act, and the management plan to be developed through the RMP process.

Goal 2 - Protect and improve the ORVs of rivers determined to be administratively suitable for potential inclusion in the National WSR System until Congress acts.

Objective 1. Provide interim protection of the ORVs of eligible and administratively suitable rivers in conformance with the Management Guidelines and Standards.

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

Goal - Manage Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) and WSA additions so as not to impair their suitability for preservation as wilderness.

Objective 1. Manage section 202 acquired lands as additions to WSAs, new WSAs, or as non-designated public land, depending on suitability and wilderness characteristics.



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Resource Management Planning Update
Andrews Management Unit / Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area

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In late February 2002, the BLM distributed a scoping brochure asking readers to complete a comment card if they wished to remain on the RMP/EIS mailing list. If you received this newsletter through the mail, you are on the RMP/EIS mailing list. If this newsletter was provided to you through other means and you would like to be added to our mailing list, please select the information you would like and send this form to the Burns District BLM Office (address provided on page 2):

- ☐ Send me the planning update newsletters.
- ☐ I would like a copy of the Summary of the Analysis of the Management Situation.
- ☐ I would like a copy of the Andrews/Steens RMP/EIS at both Draft and Final stages. (C.D. or Paper Copy)
- ☐ Send me only the Final RMP/EIS. (C.D. or Paper Copy)

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